

Alston &amp; Bird

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
10/720,023	11/19/2003	Thomas P. Branch	45011-271086

CONFIRMATION NO. 3205

00826  
 ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
 BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA  
 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000  
 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000



\*OC000000012167945\*

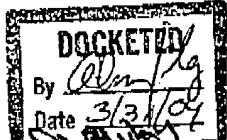
Date Mailed: 03/23/2004

## RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

## Domestic Continuity and Foreign Priority

In response to your request for a corrected Filing Receipt, the Office is unable to comply with the request because:

- The priority or continuity claim has not been entered because it was not filed during the required time period. Applicant may wish to consider filing a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78.
- Continuity claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120 cannot be added to the Filing Receipt without the applicant supplying the relationship (continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) in an Application Data Sheet or amendment to the first page of the specification.
- A claim for priority cannot be made based on an application filed after the application making the claim.
- Domestic benefit and foreign priority claims will not be captured in a provisional application. A provisional application is not entitled to a right of priority or to the benefit of an earlier filing date of any other application. See 35 U.S.C. § 111(b)(7) and 37 CFR 1.53(c)(4).
- A domestic continuity claim cannot be made to a foreign application and the filing receipt will only list the foreign country, application number, and filing date.
- Foreign priority will appear on the Filing Receipt in the following order: Country, Application number, Filing date.
- This application is the result of a conversion from a provisional application. Priority based on such application cannot be made since it no longer exists as a provisional application.



The application(s) to which priority is claimed were filed over a year prior to the filing date of this application. Therefore, the referenced application(s) cannot be claimed as domestic or foreign priority.

To change the benefit claim of a U.S. prior-filed application, applicant must amend the first sentence of the specification (if the benefit claim is referenced in the specification), or provide a supplemental application data sheet (ADS) (if the benefit claim was submitted in an ADS), with the desired benefit claim. Note that once a benefit claim is deleted, applicant will not be able to claim such prior-filed application again, if the above-identified application was filed on or after November 29, 2000.

To change a foreign priority claim, applicant must submit a supplemental oath or declaration (if the priority claim is referenced in the oath or declaration), or a supplemental application data sheet (ADS) (if the priority claim was submitted in an ADS), with the desired priority claim. If a supplemental ADS is submitted, any deletions should be shown with strikeouts. Note that once a priority claim is deleted, applicant will not be able to claim such foreign application again, if the above-identified application was filed on or after November 29, 2000.

*J. Sauer*  
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Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

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